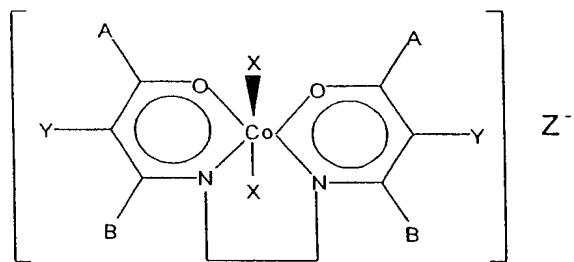


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The likelihood of infection by a broad spectrum of viruses, including Adenovirus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and/or Human Papillomavirus infection can be reduced by the prophylactic topical application, prior to the exposure to or 5 infection by the virus of metallo-organic cobalt compounds according to the following formula to the site of infection:



wherein each A may be the same or different and is an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted derivative of a phenyl group;

10 wherein each Y may be the same or different and is hydrogen, an unbranched alkyl group, a halide or a group having the structure $\begin{smallmatrix} R & & C \\ & \parallel & \backslash \\ & & O \end{smallmatrix}$ wherein R is hydrogen, an alkoxide group, and alkyl group, or OH;

wherein each B may be the same or different and each is hydrogen or an alkyl group;

wherein each X may be the same or different and each is a water soluble group

15 having weak to intermediate ligand field strength; and

Z^- is a soluble, pharmaceutically acceptable negative ion.

Metallo-organic cobalt compounds may also be used to disinfect liquids which contain adenovirus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and/or Human Papillomavirus.